

KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

Olaf Roynesdal, Senior Pastor
H. Ashley Hall, Associate Pastor
Inba Inbarasu, Visitation Pastor

2650 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68131-3616
402-341-7761
www.kmlchurch.org

October 20, 2019

9:00 & 11:00 AM

NINETEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is the encouragement of the Christ of the gospel today. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(stand)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come.

C Amen.

P If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P God our helper,

C we confess the many ways we have failed to live as your disciples.

We have not finished what we began.

We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers.

We have been captivated by our possessions.

Lift our burdens, gracious God.

Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin.

Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent. Put trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news.

C Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“Beautiful Savior”

ELW 838

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Lord God, tireless guardian of your people,

C you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 32:22-31

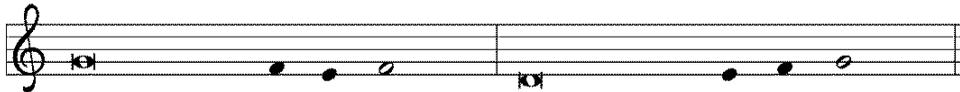
Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

ℒ The word of the Lord.

☪ Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121



¹I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

²**My help comes | from the LORD,**

the maker of heav- | en and earth.

³The LORD will not let your | foot be moved

nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keep- | er of Israel**

will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;

⁵the LORD watches | over you;

the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike | you by day,**

nor the | moon by night.

⁷The LORD will preserve you | from all evil

and will | keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**

from this time forth for- | evermore.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

Paul continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

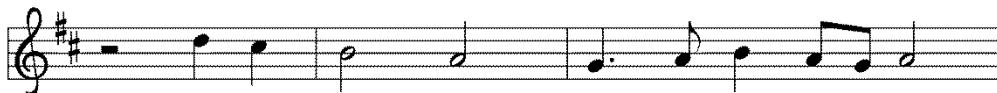
But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1}In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ²proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

G Glory to you, O Lord!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of a hateful judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵yet

because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming. ' ”⁶ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth? ”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit)

CHILDREN’S BLESSING (9:00 AM)

Children (aged 3 years through 5th grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.

SERMON

Pastor Roynesdal

(stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

ELW 742

HOLY BAPTISM (11:00AM)

see ELW page 227

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (9:00 AM)

☐ God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

☑ **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(stand)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: **P** Lord, in your mercy,
 C hear our prayer.

(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)

Sympathy: to the family and friends of David Wachal, brother of Fred Wachal

Thanksgiving: for the baptism of Jayda Rose Graves, daughter of Corey Graves & Samantha Zellmar; for the baptism of Violet Pearl Hinrichs, daughter of Andrew and Beverly Hinrichs

Illness: Richard Bock, Debbie Buike, office volunteer, Don Burton, Joe Doremus, Rodney Edwards, Rev. Harry Fink, Michael Gonser, Eunice Grunberg, Dolores Hiatt, Lois Johnson, mother of Lee Johnson and Dayle Johnson, Rosann Klug, mother of David Klug, Marcie Lafleur, Mary Olson, Joan Nelson, Jean Nippert, Gary Rodene, Pr. Carlos Schneider, Stacy Tompkins, Jerry Warner, Ed & Darlene White

Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military* – Anthony Bonacci, Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Wyatt Johnson, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Cody Ray, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woosley

Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission* – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Rev. Rachel Ringlaben, Argentina; Meghan Brown Saavedra, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin; the Wittenberg Center and Dan & Ginny Rath, international translators

WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

MEAL

(sit)

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

We glorify God in our giving. Our offering is an act of worship that makes the ministries of this congregation possible. We encourage everyone to give. If you are visiting with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate in this portion of worship. If you would like, use the QR code scanner on your smart phone to give online.



MUSICAL OFFERING

“Hear My Prayer, O Lord”

David Lantz III

THE TABLE IS PREPARED

(stand)

OFFERTORY HYMN

“Giving God, We Pause and Wonder”

**Giving God, we pause and wonder: What would happen if we tithed —
If we gave our gifts, Creator, Hearts and hands all opened wide?
We might learn, by gladly sharing, Not to trust in things we own
But to risk — it's part of caring — And to trust in you alone.**

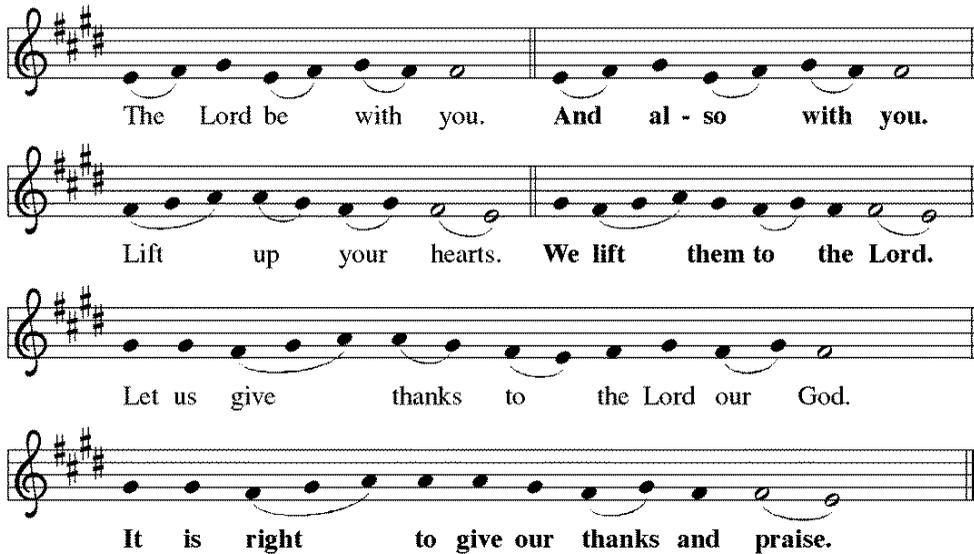
**God, we know we cannot pay you For your love in Christ your Son.
Gifts and tithes are just a "thank you" — Ways to pass your blessings on.
We have learned that, in our sharing, We receive more than we give.
By your Spirit, make us daring In this joyful way to live.**

Biblical References: Malachi 3:8-10; Romans 15:25-26; 1 John 4:7-8 Tune: John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813 ("Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing") Text: Copyright © 2005 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Copied from *Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor* by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Upper Room Books, 2009).

OFFERING PRAYER

- ☞** God our provider,
- ☞** we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

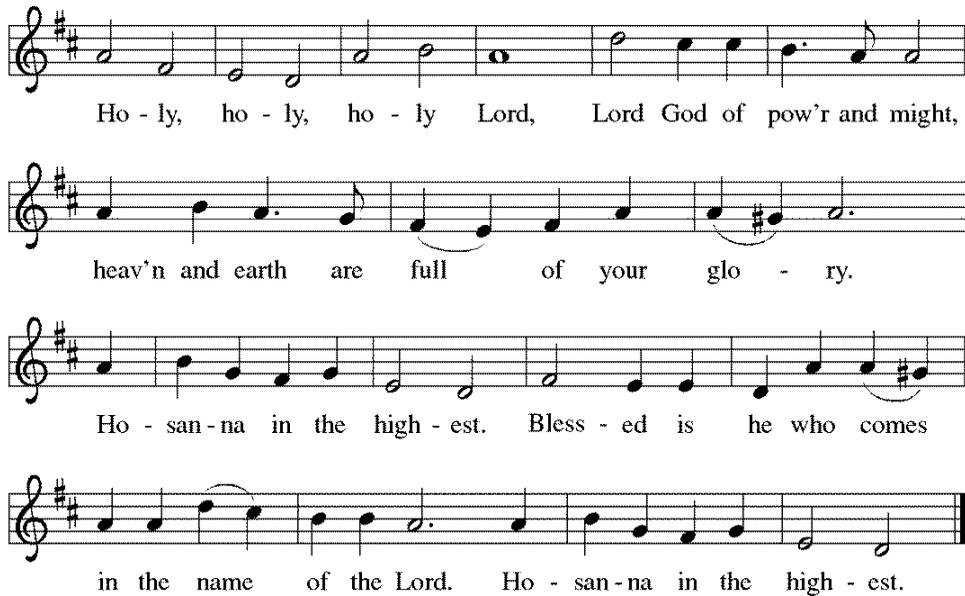
HOLY COMMUNION



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:

☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☐ Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

☑ **Come, take your place at the feast.**

THE DISTRIBUTION

*All baptized Christians who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and his Real Presence in, with and under the bread and wine, are welcome to the Lord's Supper. We believe that this is the Lord's table and is he who invites you. So you who are strong in faith, come with gratitude. You who feel weak in faith, come to be strengthened. And you who feel you have no faith, come so that the God of steadfast love will touch your heart with hope and joy. The form of distribution is **intinction**, you will receive the consecrated bread and you may then dip it in the wine. Gluten free bread is available; simply request it.*

(sit)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

“Agnus Dei”

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

“Day by Day”

ELW 790

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ELW 632

(stand)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- P** God of blessing,
- C** at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ’s body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

- ☐ Guard the good treasure entrusted in you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in you. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with grace, mercy, and peace, now and forever.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

HYMN

“I Love to Tell the Story”

ELW 661

DISMISSAL

- ☐ Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



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KOUNTZE STAFF

Pr. Olaf Roynesdal	Senior Pastor
Pr. Ashley Hall	Associate Pastor
Pr. Inba Inbarasu	Visitation Pastor
Kristin Boe	Christian Ed Coordinator
Debbie Bogue	Office Manager
Sarah Jewell	Administrative Assistant
Noni Cambridge	Staff Treasurer
Judi Boe	Financial Secretary
Jim Smejkal	Bldg. Super./Dir. of Cong. Activities
Søren Johnson	Custodian
Kayla Slight	Housekeeper
Barbara Carlsen	Dir. of Music & Fine Arts
Donna Moessner	Dir. of Children's Music
Mark Jones	Organist
David Gerard	Saturday Accompanist
Sheri Lynn Tipton	Night Security Manager
Norma Pafford	Nursery Superintendent
Joyce Palmer	Director of the Weber Clinic
Susann Henry	Food Pantry Director

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

Lector	Debra Kelly
Ushers	Jim Smejkal Jason Klonglan
Comm. Set-up	Penny Hovendick

SUNDAY, 9:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Jerry Clanton Pam Johnson Dan Collett
Lector	Ruth Henneman
Ushers	John Georgeson Jim Comfort Joe Councill Dave Forrest Jeff Perkins Fred Wachal Janice Falk
Greeters	Darlene Anderson Vickie Wichert
Crucifer	Britten Johnson
Acolytes	Rahn Johnson Kaitlyn Munguia

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Comm. Asst.	Ann Miller Lowell Harms
Lector	Deb Hinrichs
Ushers	Ken Johnson Linda Johnson Lee Johnson Norm Sack
Greeters	Myrna Carter
Crucifer	Torin Edwards
Acolytes	Neely Edwards Anna Kotula



KOUNTZE

Memorial Lutheran Church

2650 Farnam Street
402-341-7761

Omaha, NE 68131
www.kmlchurch.org

October 19 & 20, 2019

Kountze Memorial Lutheran Church is a vibrant, historic faith community that welcomes all and provides ministries for all ages and walks of life. We are a "City-wide Church with a World-wide Ministry" and have been worshiping, growing, and serving in downtown Omaha for over 160 years.

If you are new to Kountze Memorial, we invite you to visit the Welcome Desk in Fellowship Hall for more information about who we are and what we do.

TODAY AT KOUNTZE

KOUNTZE CAFÉ Join us each Sunday for a hot breakfast buffet served from 8-11 AM prepared by Jim West and the kitchen crew. The suggested donation for the hot breakfast is \$5 adults, \$2.50 children 12 and younger.

ADULT FORUM Join us on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall from 10:10-10:50 AM. **THIS WEEK:** Bible Sunday **NEXT WEEK:** TBA

BIBLE SUNDAY This Sunday, October 20, 9:00 AM Worship Service. Bibles will be presented to children who are 2 and 4 years old, and to children in grades 1, 3, 5, and 7.

BELLEVUE BERRY FARM Join us on this Sunday, October 20, from 2:00 - 6:00 PM. We have a fire pit and picnic area reserved. Hotdogs, chips, beverages, and s'mores provided. Cost is \$10 per person. Kids under two are free. (11001 South 48th Street, Papillion). We hope to see you there!

THE DIRECTORIES ARE HERE! If you had your photo taken by the photographers for the church directory, your free directory is available at the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES TODAY

JOYFUL SOUNDS CHILDREN'S CHOIR Join us each Sunday from 9-9:30 AM. All children (K-6th grade) who want to praise our Lord by singing, meet in the Joyful Sounds Studio on the 2nd floor. The choir will be singing this Sunday during Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us on Sundays on the 2nd floor for Sunday School. Preschool 1 (2-4 yrs) meets from 9:00—10:00 AM (child care for those too old for the nursery). Sunday School (2 yrs-8th grade) is held from 10:10—10:50 AM.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM Join us each Sunday in the Youth Center at 10:10 AM.

October 20 Sunday

Bible Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-6)

10:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

10:10 AM Adult Forum

2:00 PM Bellevue Berry Farm

October 21 Monday

Oct 21 - Oct 25 Celebrate Creativity

10:00 AM Pantry

6:00 PM Clinic Board

October 22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

7:00 PM Circle 3

October 23 Wednesday

12:15 PM Worship

6:00 PM Confirmation Supper

6:30 PM Confirmation Class

7:30 PM Confirmation Worship

October 24 Thursday

1:30 PM Circle 4

4:00 PM Healing Gift Free Clinic

6:00 PM Worship & Music Committee

October 26 Saturday

5:00 PM Worship

October 27 Sunday

Reformation Sunday

7:45 AM & 10:00 AM Adult Choir Rehearsal

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship

9:00 AM Nursery (0-2 yrs)

9:00 AM 1st Communion

9:00 AM Joyful Sounds Children's Choir (gr K-6)

10:10 AM Sunday School (2yr-8th gr)

10:10 AM Youth Forum (gr 9-12)

12:00 PM Stephen Ministry

HOLY COMMUNION All who are baptized and trust in Christ's presence in Holy Communion are invited to commune at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing will receive a blessing. Instructions will be provided during worship. It is the understanding of the universal Church that those who wish to commune with bread only (especially for health reasons) have communed fully.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP We believe that all are welcome in worship and encourage families to worship together. Quiet activity bags, children's bibles, and bulletins are available, as well as a Quiet Room, just off the west side of the main sanctuary, that includes a TV and a variety of toys, games, and books for young children.

NURSERY is available from 9 AM—noon for children 0—2 years. Please ask an usher if you are unsure as to where our nursery is and would like to use it.

ATTENDANCE CARDS All those attending worship are encouraged to fill out the card included in your bulletin and place in the offering plate.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES Please speak to an usher if you would like a large print bulletin or an assisted listening device.

E-NEWS & SOCIAL MEDIA If you would like to receive our weekly e-news and monthly e-newsletter, add your e-mail address to the card in your bulletin or text your e-mail address to 22828.

NEW MEMBER CLASS If you are interested in joining our congregation, the next class will be Sundays, January 19 & 26, 2020, from 12:15—2:00 PM. Please plan to attend both sessions. Lunch will be served and childcare is provided. New members will be received on February 2. Please indicate your attendance plans on your attendance card or call the church office by January 12 and let us know if you will need childcare when you register.

GRIEF SEMINAR Sunday, November 3, 2019 (All Saint's Sunday), 12:00 – 2:00 PM. Grief is difficult and especially during the holidays. If you have lost a relative or close friend, this would be an opportunity to share that grief with others and share how we can move through that grief. A light lunch will be served. Please call the church office at 402-341-7761 to make a reservation.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH Tuesday, November 5, 12:00 PM. \$4.00 for lunch. All ages are welcome! Please join us for fun and fellowship! We will be making cute, yet simple crafts. You won't want miss out on our delicious lunch, served at noon. We will be serving scalloped potatoes and ham for our main dish, tasty sides, and

pumpkin pie for dessert! Please RSVP to the church office by Friday November 1, (402-341-7761). All ages are encouraged to attend! If you have any questions, please call Sheri Tipton at 402-415-6033. Looking forward to seeing you there!

WOMEN'S FALL BRUNCH Saturday, November 9, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend! No charge. Musical Entertainment. Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, November 6. Hope to see you there!

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK DINNER! Friday, November 15, 6:00 PM. All members of Kountze are invited to join in a Thanksgiving Potluck. Bring your favorite Thanksgiving side or dessert to share with others. Turkey and drinks provided.

MEN'S LUNCHEON Thursday, November 21, 11:30 AM (Please RSVP by October 19). Suggested donation is \$10.00. Our speaker will be Steve McCoy who is director of the Omaha Airport Authority. You never know what is going to be on the menu but you can bet it will be good. Please RSVP to the church office or jim@kmlchurch.org the Tuesday prior to the lunch.

THANKSGIVING DINNER WITH ST. PETER'S Will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Co-sponsored with and held at St. Peter's Catholic parish (709 S 28th St.) Preparations are under way for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon. Volunteers are needed to: a) set up the night before; b) donate pies/desserts; and, c) serve food, greet, and/or clean tables during the meal. This event brings so many people in our community together in a spirit of Christian love and fellowship. Please join us, either to volunteer or as a guest; all are welcome. In 2018 we served over 400 guests for Thanksgiving Dinner! Watch for the sign up sheets in the bulletin beginning November 3.

ATTN: COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THE OMAHA AREA Go on Facebook and ask to join our group: NeMO (Nebraska Ministry-Omaha) for updates on our events, calendars, etc. We meet every Thursday evening at St. Timothy Lutheran Church on 93rd & Dodge from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. This fall we are also inviting Creighton students to join us in the Skutt student center two Sunday evenings each month and post that schedule on the NeMO FB group.

ATTN: YOUNG ADULTS WORKING IN THE OMAHA AREA Go on Facebook and ask to join the group: "God & Grads". We love to hang out at Spielbound, play trivia at Farnam House, and go out for late night appetizers at Applebee's.

USHERS STILL NEEDED at both Sunday services. If you'd like more information or would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Jim Smejkal at 402-341-7761 or jim@kmlchurch.org.

KOUNTZE FOOD PANTRY The Kountze Food Pantry could really use donations of toilet paper. We would love to have this vital item available for our guests, but the expense is significant and we have not had the funds available. Any contribution you can make would be greatly appreciated. The Family Fare receipts have been pouring in. Let's keep up the good work! The Food Pantry will qualify for \$1,000 before we know it!

ATTENDANCE & GIVING

Saturday Attendance: 55

Sunday Attendance: 9:00: 206 11:00: 114

Midweek - Noon: 8 **Evening:** 20

Total: 403

Pantry Guests Served: No Pantry/Columbus Day

Medical Clinic Guests Served: 19

Offering:

\$10,856.54 (Regular) \$4,314.02 (Specials)

\$1,267.50 (Phase 2)



**Remember to
Fall backwards!**

**Daylight Savings Time
ends at 2:00 AM on
Sunday, November 3**

Faith pursues God's blessings.

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 18:1-8	Parable of the persistent widow
Monday	Genesis 32:22-31	God renames Jacob
Tuesday	2 Timothy 3:14-4:5	Paul's instruction to Timothy
Wednesday	Genesis 14:17-24	Abram blessed by Melchizedek
Thursday	Psalms 42	Longing for God
Friday	James 5:13-18	Prayer of faith
Saturday	Psalms 121	Assurance of God's protection
Sunday	Luke 18:9-14	A Pharisee and tax collector pray

taking
faith
home

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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.
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Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." **Genesis 32:26 (NRSV)**

A Prayer for the Week:

God of hope, give us strength to endure life's struggles and faith to pursue your justice and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, in your name we drink and sup: teach us to pray and not give up. Help us to look to you this day and show our thanks in all we say. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord protect you from this time on and forevermore.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think of something you are trying hard to accomplish. How do you go about it?
- When you see something that is unfair, do you expect God to fix it? Why or why not?
- Faith is a gift worth pursuing with all your heart. How do you explain this?

Read: Genesis 32:22-31.

This is an amazing story. The "man" who wrestled with Jacob was actually God (vv. 28, 30). Even more, God does not win the wrestling match, and that seems to be okay with God. God honors Jacob whose name means "trickster." The trickster had deceived his father Isaac to unfairly gain his older brother's inheritance and, more importantly, the blessing that goes from Abraham and Isaac and now to Jacob instead of Esau. Like the widow in Luke 18:1-8 who persistently bothers the unjust judge to get her justice, Jacob does whatever it takes to be blessed. And God so honors that determination that God gives Jacob a new name, Israel, which in this story means "you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed" (v. 28). Jacob and God's people will now be known as Israel, a term that commends the importance of wrestling with and being persistent for God's blessings. Yes, it is true that God is the more persistent one, but God wants us to pursue the divine blessing and pursue an active life of faith instead of a complacency that takes God's word and righteousness for granted. How do you pursue God in your daily life of faith? How do you wrestle with God?

Pray: **God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, thank you for honoring our wrestling with you as faithful followers, through Christ our Lord, amen.**

Psalms 121:1 asks, "From where will my help come from?" The answer in the next verse is, "My help comes from the Lord." We are God's hands and feet in the world. When you see someone less fortunate or in need, where does their help come from? It, too, comes from the Lord with your help. Who in your life could use a helping hand? Take time to reach out to them through an act of kindness and tell them that the reason you are doing so is in response to God's loving presence in your life.

The theme this week is God's blessings. God blesses Jacob and King Melchizedek blessed Abram. The scripture readings also tell of the importance of prayer. In Luke 18:1, Jesus says to, "pray always and not lose heart". When done in the home regularly, prayers and blessings help us grow in our faith. Say a prayer at every meal and at bedtime this week as a reminder to pray always. Make it a practice to bless others this week by making the sign of the cross on foreheads or hands as people leave for work or school and say the words: **May the Lord protect you.**

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22; Psalms 84:1-7
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18:9-14